

# U.S. Consulate General Dubai Newsletter

AUGUST 2013



## American Citizen Services Dubai Newsletter

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## Back to School

Summer is a time when routines and schedules go out the window, days are usually carefree and bed-times are pushed back. But those relaxing days can make transitioning back to school difficult for both parents and students.



With some advance planning, however, the switch from summer to fall doesn't have to hurt quite as much.

Immunizations and Other Health Requirements: It's a good idea to take your child for a physical and eye exam before school starts. Most schools require up to date immunizations.

Set sleep habits: Ease the transition back to early mornings by implementing a bedtime. Getting enough sleep is important for school performance. If your child stays up late in the summer, start setting back the bedtime in small increments until it's back where you want it.

Healthy Eating and Physical Fitness: Nutrition is an important factor in academic performance. Studies have shown that children who eat healthy, balanced breakfasts and lunches are more alert throughout the school day and earn higher grades than those who have an unhealthy diet.

School Supplies: Many school supplies, such as pens, binders, and notebooks, can be reused. Sort through the materials you already have, separating those that your child can use again from those that should be recycled or tossed.

Homework Help: Homework can provide many benefits for children. It can improve memory and comprehension, develop study skills, and teach children how to manage time.

Please visit <http://www.state.gov/youthandeducation/> for resources for students and budding diplomats.



Source:

<http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Back-to-School.shtml>



Effective September 1, 2013  
**Dubai American Citizen Services**  
will have a new Email Address:

**[DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov)**

Please note that effective on **September 1, 2013** the [DubaiWarden@state.gov](mailto:DubaiWarden@state.gov) email address will be deactivated. Please note this change and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

# Worldwide Travel Alert

August 02, 2013



The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to the continued potential for terrorist attacks, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, and possibly occurring in or emanating from the Arabian Peninsula. Current information suggests that al-Qa'ida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks both in the region and beyond, and that they may focus efforts to conduct attacks in the period between now and the end of August. This Travel Alert expires on August 31, 2013.

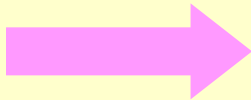
Terrorists may elect to use a variety of means and weapons and target both official and private interests. U.S. citizens are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure. Terrorists have targeted and attacked subway and rail systems, as well as aviation and maritime services. U.S. citizens should take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt appropriate safety measures to protect themselves when traveling. We continue to work closely with other nations on the threat from international terrorism, including from al-Qa'ida. Information is routinely shared between the U.S. and our key partners in order to disrupt terrorist plotting, identify and take action against potential operatives, and strengthen our defenses against potential threats.

We recommend U.S. citizens register their travel plans with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website. We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens Traveling abroad enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy. or consulate.

For a list of all messages to U.S. citizens, please visit our website at:

[http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/warden\\_travel.html](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/warden_travel.html).

Follow these icons to different links to stay connected with the Department of State!



## STAYING CONNECTED



### Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>



The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country.

STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.

STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate -- **please include a valid email address.**

To remove yourself from the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

- If you are no longer in Dubai and do not wish to receive these messages, go to <https://step.state.gov> and update your profile with current information.
- You may leave the list at any time by sending "SIGNOFF POST\_DUBAI" in the subject line to [LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV).

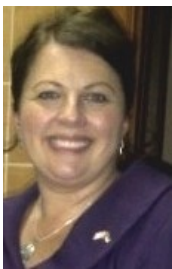
## **U.S. Driver's License Renewal and Authentication**

It is not possible to renew a U.S. driver's license at an Embassy or Consulate. All U.S. driver's licenses must be renewed through the Department of Motor Vehicles in your State. Please visit your State's website for information on how to renew from abroad.

Some States allow mail in renewals.

The Consulate is not able to authenticate or attest U.S. driver's licenses to aid in obtaining a UAE driver's license. Information on authentications is found on our website at:

[http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary\\_services.html](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary_services.html)



### **Consular Corner**

Many of us are getting ready for ***Back to School*** season and all the organizing that comes with it! As you prepare, check that you have all the necessary documents, including any U.S. certificates (marriage, birth, etc.) authenticated, if necessary. Authentication is a long process that is done entirely in the U.S., and you should plan accordingly. For more information on document authentications, go to our website at:

[http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary\\_services.html](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary_services.html). The Consulate is also able to authenticate UAE documents that have already been authenticated by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Many of us have been watching the news on the latest events in Middle East, including any security concerns that may evolve. To be sure that you are receiving the most current information from the Department of State, including notifications of closings by the Consulate, please register with STEP at <https://step.state.gov/step/> and include a valid email address. Encourage your family and friends to do so as well! The Department of State's website <http://travel.state.gov/> has travel information for all countries. Check here regularly!

There are numerous local and U.S. holidays over the next several months. Please see the last page of this newsletter and our website to learn what days the Consulate is closed. Also, keep in mind that American Citizen Services is regularly closed on Mondays.



### **The Smart Traveler App**

Available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone](#), provides easy access to your [STEP](#) account and allows you to create personal itineraries, add notes, and organize your trips. Not only that, but it provides quick access to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



## Real International Financial Scams [Beware!](#)

The Bureau of Consular Affairs receives daily calls about international scams involving Internet dating, inheritance, work permits, overpayment, and money-laundering. Many scams are initiated

through the Internet; victims range in age from 18 to 81 and come from all socio-economic backgrounds.

If you are concerned about a U.S. citizen in distress overseas, but you are not sure if it is a legitimate case, call Overseas Citizens Services at 888-407-4747 (from overseas: 202-501-4444). Review our information on [Emergency Assistance to Americans Abroad](#).

If you feel you have been a victim of an Internet scam, please consult our [publications](#) for help and send all reports of Internet fraud directly to the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#) - a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). IC3 was established to receive internet related criminal complaints and to research, develop, and refer complaints to federal, state, local, or international law enforcement if appropriate.



TSA Pre✓™ allows select frequent flyers of participating airlines and members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs who are flying on participating airlines, to receive expedited screening benefits. Eligible participants use dedicated screening lanes for screening benefits which include leaving on shoes, light outerwear and belts, as well as leaving laptops and 3-1-1 compliant liquids in carry-on bags.

Learn more about how you can participate and receive expedited screening.



### Doritos Crusted Chicken Fingers

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Large bag of Doritos
  - 2 cups buttermilk
  - 2 cups flour
  - 4 eggs
  - cooking spray (optional)
- Prep time: 35 mins  
Cook time: 20 mins

#### Instructions

- Cut the chicken into thin ½ inch strips.
- Place the chicken in a bowl and pour in the buttermilk. Stir so the chicken is coated in the buttermilk. Cover the bowl and place in the fridge for about 2 hours.
- Using a food processor, crush the Doritos so that they are a texture similar to panko or coarse bread crumbs. Set aside in a large bowl.
- Place flour in one bowl and eggs in another. Whisk the eggs so that they are well scrambled.
- Preheat oven to 400F and spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.
- Set up the four bowls in order: 1. bowl with the chicken, 2. bowl with the flour, 3. bowl with the beaten eggs, 4. bowl with the crushed Doritos.
- Using a fork, lift out a few chicken strips and let excess buttermilk drain off. Place them in the flour and dredge them in so they are all coated in flour. Lift the chicken strips out of the flour and shake off any excess. Place them in the egg wash and turn them so they are evenly coated in egg. Lift them out of the egg and then dredge in the crushed Doritos. Place the coated chicken fingers on the baking sheet. Do this with the remaining chicken strips.
- Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, turning halfway through. Serve with buttermilk ranch dip, bbq sauce or your favorite dip.





**Always be prepared.**

[www.READY.gov](http://www.READY.gov) and [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) have information on preparing for any emergency. Visit both websites to learn what to do before, during and after an emergency.



## Preparing Makes Sense.

The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack or other emergency. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense.

**Get ready now.**

### 1 Get a Kit of Emergency Supplies.

Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for **at least three days**, maybe longer. While there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air.

**Consider two kits.** In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to get away.

You'll need a gallon of **water** per person per day for drinking and sanitation. Include in the kits a three day supply of non-perishable **foods** that are easy to store and prepare such as protein bars, dried fruit or canned foods. If you live in a cold weather climate, include **warm clothes** and a sleeping bag for each member of the family.

Some potential terrorist attacks could send tiny microscopic "junk" into the air. Many of these materials can only hurt you if they get into your body, so think about creating a barrier between yourself and any contamination. It's smart to have something for each member of the family that covers **their mouth and nose**, such as two to three layers of a cotton t-shirt, handkerchief or towel or **filter masks**, readily available in hardware stores. It is very important that the mask or other material fit your face snugly so that most of the air you breathe comes through the mask, not around it. Do whatever you can to make the best fit possible for children.

Also, include **duct tape and heavyweight garbage bags or plastic sheeting** that can be used to seal windows and doors if you need to create a barrier between yourself and any potential contamination outside.

### 2 Make a Plan For What You Will Do in an Emergency.

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

**Develop a Family Communications Plan.** Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. **Consider a plan where each family member calls, or e-mails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.** It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Be sure each person knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. You may have trouble getting through, or the phone system may be down altogether, but be patient.

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. **Watch television and listen to the radio for official instructions as they become available.**

**Create a Plan to Shelter-in-Place.** There are circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as sheltering-in-place and sealing the room can be a matter of survival. **If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place and seal the room. Consider precutting plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors and air vents.** Each piece should be several inches larger than the space you want to cover so that you can duct tape it flat against the wall. Label each piece with the location of where it fits.

Use all available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place. Quickly bring your family and pets inside, lock doors, and close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers. Immediately turn off air conditioning, forced air heating systems, exhaust fans and clothes dryers. Take your emergency supplies and go into the room you have designated. Seal all windows, doors and vents. Understand that sealing the room is a temporary measure to create a barrier between you and contaminated air. Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions.

**Create a Plan to Get Away.** Plan in advance how you will assemble your family and anticipate where you will go. **Choose several destinations in different directions** so you have

options in an emergency. If you have a car, keep at least a half tank of gas in it at all times. **Become familiar with alternate routes as well as other means of transportation** out of your area. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. **Take your emergency supply kit**, unless you have reason to believe it is contaminated and lock the door behind you. Take pets with you if you are told to evacuate, however, if you are going to a public shelter, keep in mind they may not be allowed inside. If you believe the air may be contaminated, drive with your windows and vents closed and keep the air conditioning and heater turned off. Listen to the radio for instructions.

**Know Emergency Plans at School and Work.** Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places your family frequents. **Talk to your children's schools and your employer about emergency plans.** Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If you are an employer, be sure you have an emergency preparedness plan. Review and practice it with your employees. A community working together during an emergency also makes sense. **Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together.**

### 3 Be Informed About What Might Happen.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats, such as biological, chemical, explosive, nuclear and radiological, which will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these specific threats, you are **preparing yourself** to react in an emergency. Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to learn more about potential terrorist threats and other emergencies or call 1-800-BE-READY (1-800-237-3239) for a free brochure.

**Be prepared** to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected.

**Get ready now.**

### 4 Get Involved in Preparing Your Community.

After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Join **Citizen Corps**, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger and better prepared. We all have a role to play in keeping our hometowns secure from emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps works hard to help people prepare, train and volunteer in their communities. Go to [www.citizen corps.gov](http://www.citizen corps.gov) for more information and to get involved.

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

[www.READY.gov](http://www.READY.gov) recommends the following supplies to include in a Basic Kit:

- Water: one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Moist Towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Unique family needs: daily medications, infant formula, diapers, documents.

## Tips in Residing Abroad

Whether you are planning to move abroad or are already residing outside of the U.S., you should review the information about safe travel and consular services available to you, since most of it applies equally to U.S. citizens residing abroad

**Marriage Abroad.** U.S. consular officers abroad cannot perform marriages. Depending on the law of the foreign country, local civil or religious officials generally perform marriages. Many countries have requirements that the parties have been resident in that country for a specified period of time before a marriage may be performed there.

- There may be requirements for blood tests, etc.
- There may be requirements for parental consent.
- There are also, in many countries, a requirement that documents certifying the end of a previous relationship (such as a death or divorce certificate) be submitted, translated into the local language and authenticated.
- Some countries require an affidavit by the parties as proof of legal capacity to enter into a marriage contract. (This affidavit can be executed at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.)

**Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen.** Most children born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents acquire U.S. citizenship at birth. As soon as possible after the birth, the U.S. citizen parent should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If the consul determines that the child has acquired U.S. citizenship, a consular officer prepares a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of Amer-

ica (Form FS-240). This document is recognized in the United States as proof of acquisition of U.S. citizenship, and it is acceptable evidence of citizenship for obtaining a passport, entering school, and most other purposes. Failure to document a child promptly as a U.S. citizen may cause hardship for the parents or child later on when attempting to obtain a passport or register for school.

**Death Abroad.** One of the most important tasks of U.S. consular officers abroad is to provide assistance to the families of U.S. citizens who die abroad. For more information about consular assistance when an American citizen has died abroad, see "Death of a U.S. Citizen Abroad".

**Driver's License.** It is illegal to drive without a valid license and insurance in many countries. You should check with the Embassy of the country where you plan to reside, to find out more about driver's license requirements. A listing of foreign embassies and consulates in the U.S. is available on the Department of State's website at <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>. Foreign embassy and consulate contact information can also be found on the Country Specific Information for each country.

Source: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/>



## **Ramadan Might Be Over, but Most Rules Still Apply...! A Reminder of the Do's & Don'ts in UAE:**

- Public displays of affection, including holding hands and kissing, are socially unacceptable and may lead to an arrest.
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications are often considered illegal or a controlled substance.
- Do not take pictures of the locals, especially women, without permission.
- The UAE has a very low tolerance of alcohol consumption. Don't drink and drive!
- Offensive language, spitting and aggressive behaviour (including hand gestures) are viewed very seriously and can result in imprisonment and deportation. This includes "road rage".
- Working without a proper visa is illegal. You cannot partake in any kind of paid employment without first obtaining a work visa. If caught, you may face imprisonment.
- Bouncing a check is illegal in the UAE. If a check is presented without adequate funds to cover the amount, you may face criminal and civil charges. After you have served your jail sentence you will not be able to leave the country until the funds have been paid in full.

Source: <http://thriftytraveling.com/going-to-dubai-better-know-the-law/>

## Test Your Thanksgiving Knowledge!

A great game to play on Thanksgiving Day is Thanksgiving Day Trivia by learning the whole evolution of Thanksgiving and the meaning of this day in the United States.

- 1) The name of the famous rock where the pilgrims landed?
- 2) What is the name of the ship the pilgrims came over to the United States on?
- 3) What is the original name of pilgrims?
- 4) What part of the turkey is broken for good luck?
- 5) What year was the first Thanksgiving Federal Holiday?
- 6) Who was the first President to pardon a Turkey?
- 7) Which football teams played the first Thanksgiving Day game in 1934?
- 8) What was the Mayflower originally designed to carry?



Source: <http://voices.yahoo.com/thanksgiving-trivia-questions-answers>

### Answers:

1) Plymouth Rock 2) Mayflower 3) Puritans 4) The wishbone 5) 1621 6) Harry Truman 7) Detroit Lions vs Chicago Bears 8) Wine

## 8 Things to Know About Eid Al Adha



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1. Eid al-Adha is celebrated to honor and commemorate the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as per God's order. God provided Abraham with a sheep to sacrifice at the last second instead.

2. Eid al-Adha takes place at the end of Hajj (the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia), one of the five pillars of Islam. Every year, approximately 3 million Muslims travel to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj.

3. Eid al-Adha is the latter of two Eid celebrations, the first being Eid al-Fitr, which comes after Ramadan.

4. *Salat ul-Eid* are significant prayers which take place during the first day of Eid to kick things off.

5. During Eid al-Adha, men, women and children dress in their finest attire, and those who can afford to sacrifice an entire halal animal — often a sheep or a cow, and in some regions a camel — and donate the meat to neighbors and those who are less fortunate.

6. The meat is divided into three parts: the family keeps one third; another third is given to relatives, friends and neighbors; and the last part is given to those in need. The idea is that no impoverished person is left without meat on the table during Eid al-Adha.

7. The sacrificed animal is referred to as *Udiyyah* (meaning "the sacrificed" in Arabic), and has to meet a certain set of rules, which include being of a certain age and of the highest quality available.

8. Often times, fried liver is served for breakfast, while the rest of the animal constitutes meals for lunch and dinner. Cooking techniques and recipes vary from one country to another. In the Arab world, one of the basic ways to cook mutton is to braise it with plenty of garlic, cumin and onion over a slow fire. In Southeast Asia, biryanis are especially popular, while in Turkey, kebab is prevalent.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/26/world/eid-5-things>



### Upcoming Holidays / Consulate Closing

Labor Day	Sept 1, 2013	USA
Columbus Day	Oct 13, 2013	USA
Arafat (Hajj) Day	Oct 14, 2013	UAE
Eid Al Adha	Oct 15-17, 2013	UAE
Islamic New Year	Nov 5, 2013	UAE
Veterans Day	Nov 11, 2013	USA
Thanksgiving Day	Nov 28, 2013	USA
National Day	Dec 2-3, 2013	UAE
Christmas Day	Dec 25, 2013	USA

The U.S. Consulate is closed on these holidays. In addition, the American Citizen Services section is closed on most Mondays. To see which days ACS is open and accepting appointments, please visit our appointment calendar on our website [HERE](#).



### ACS Appointment System

In order to provide the most efficient service to our community, the American Citizen Section at the US Consulate General in Dubai has established an appointment system for all routine services. Please book an appointment online at [dubai.usconsulate.gov](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov) under US Citizen Services. When you have made your appointment, a confirmation page will appear on your screen. Please print the confirmation page and bring it with you on the day of your appointment. We do not allow walk-in appointments.

Emergency Services are provided on an as-needed basis; please send an email to [DubaiWarden@state.gov](mailto:DubaiWarden@state.gov). We answer our emails daily.

*\*Note American Citizen Services Email Address will change to [DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov), effective September 1, 2013.*

### Contact Us

**Telephone number:** +971 4 309 4000

ACS Public Phone Hours: daily 8:00-10:00

**Email:** [DubaiWarden@state.gov](mailto:DubaiWarden@state.gov)

*\*Note American Citizen Services Email Address will change to [DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov), effective September 1, 2013.*

**Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>

**Emergency:** +971-4-309 4000, ask for the Duty Officer.

### Dubai Emergency Numbers

**Police/Ambulance:** 999

**Fire:** 997



**The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is located at the Corner of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road and Al Seef Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE**